allied sectors, as accepted by the Government, have been incorporated in the National Policy for Farmers. These include, *inter alia,* asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies for improving productivity in a sustainable manner; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers, and integrated nutrient and pest management system etc.

In addition, for revitalization of agriculture sector, Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes. Besides, a number of initiatives, plan schemes and programmes including the initiatives/programmes announced in the Budget 2008-09 have been taken/initiated to address the problems faced by the farmers and for development of agriculture sector.

Progress of package and farmers to Vidarbha

790. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTIRE be pleased to state the progress in implementation of the PM's package for farmers of Vidarbha and what are the expected and actual outcomes of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): As against the target of Rs. 3873.26 crore fixed under the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package for farmers of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, Rs. 2046.71 crore has been released by various implementing agencies upto 31st January, 2008. Details of the progress in implementation of the PM's package for farmers of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Identified Activities	Achievement as oft 31.01.2008
Interest Waiver	824.98
Major and Medium Irrigation	486.62
Minor Irrigation	453.42
Seed Replacement	76.18
Check Dams	60.61
Watershed Development	8.01
Rainwater harvesting •	0.62
Horticulture Development	48.01
Micro Irrigation	52.64
Extension Services	7.47
Subsidiary Income	25.15
Prime Minister's National Relief Fund	03.00
TOTAL:	2046.71

Sale of agricultural land

791. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of land-owing farmers as on 31 st March, 2007, State-wise;

(b) how many of above, belong to SC and ST State-wise as on 31st March, 2007;

(c) the number of above (a) and (b) as on 31 st March, 2001;

(d) why agriculture land is allowed to be sold for non-agricultural purpose;

(e) whether there is any thinking in Government for land owners belonging to SC not allowed to sale agricultural land to non SC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per the information available pertaining to Agriculture Census 2000-01, the State-wise number of operational holders belonging to SC, ST and all Social Groups is given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(d) Agriculture is a State subejet and the State Governments can acquire land for various purposes governed by their respective legislations, policies and procedures. However, the State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition, priority be given to waste and barren land.

(e) and (0 The Government is committed to protect the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. A Committee of Ministers for Dalit Affairs has been constituted and one of its terms of reference relates to strict enforcement of the Acts by the States for prevention of alienation of land belonging to the SCs and STs.

Statement

State-wise number of Operational Holders as per Agriculture Census 2000-01

SI. No.	States/UTs	Social Group		
		All Social **Group**	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A and N Islands	11349	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11531945	1367420	862738
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	106783	0	104497
4.	Assam	2712137	140081	395442
5.	Bihar	11574245	1602735	130443
6.	Chandigarh	1245	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	3255062	405668	1057193
8.	D and N Haveli	14000	227	12560